NECC Observer

Fall 2014
Dec. 3 vol 77 no 7

Online at Observer.NECC.Mass.edu • The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College • Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass.

News Bytes

Prevent the spread of viral illnesses

NECC's Pandemic Preparedness Task Force wants to remind students to get flu shots, wash their hands, keep work areas clean and follow proper cough etiquette to keep healthy and contain illness this flu season.

Contact Justine Caron, Associate Director of HR Developement and Benefits at jcaron@necc.mass.edu with questions or concerns.

Self Service and Degree Works issues resolved

ITS has resolved the issue with accessing Degree Works and Self-Service through the portal.

If issues persist, go to helpdesk.necc.mass.edu and contact the help desk.

Seasonal Celebration and Children's holiday party

Students, faculty, staff and children are invited to participate in the 15th annual Seasonal Celebration and Children's holiday party on Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Sport and Fitness Center on the Haverhill campus.

There will be crafts and information on different holidays, as well as food and pictures with santa.

RSVPs are requested to get a tally on how many people will be participating. Contact Alison Gouveia at (978) 556-3731 or email student engagement at engagement@necc.mass.edu

Contemporary Affairs Club hosts session of 'Snap Debates'

NECC's Contemporary Affairs Club will hold its final discussion of the semester on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at noon in C113 on Haverhill campus.

The club will host "snap debates," in which students pick a selected debate topic out of a random pool and then have five minutes to pick a side and debate it with other students.

Have an interest in Contemporary Affairs club? Email Steve Russell at srussell@necc.mass.edu

Holiday season donations at NECC

Photo courtesy of Andrea Bailey

Andrea Bailey's College Success Seminar class chipped in and donated cans to the Lazarus House food drive. Food collected for the drive goes to the Lazarus House pantry in Lawrence to help feed impoverished and homeless families. The Lazarus House food drive was sponsored by NECC's Community Outreach Group.

NECC students face the end of semester work rush

NECC students are working hard with tough deadlines

By Eduardo Souza
Correspondent

To students, the end of the semester can feel like a mixed blessing.

On one side, it's almost over. Students are almost done and winter break is coming. However, there's still so much to do. There are papers to write. There are final exams to study for. There's a multitude of work still to be done and it seems like it all falls on the same week.

Every student has their own reasons for pursuing an education at NECC, and at times like these it's important to remember what those are and keep focused on your primary objective.

NECC has a diverse student population. Some of the students here have recently graduated high school; some haven't stepped inside a classroom in years and have decided to give it try. It can be a daunting experience coming back to the classroom. It takes courage to step out of one's comfort zone and give something new a chance.

"I came to NECC because it provides a good education at a low cost compared to other colleges and universities," said Jensy Veras, a sophomore majoring in human services. Veras plans to transfer to Merrimack College after getting his associate's at NECC.

"My goal is to get involved with human services," said Veras. "In this area, there are many paths I can take. I can work with kids. I can work with at-risk youths. I'd like to do something where I'm helping to better the community."

> "I came to NECC because it provides a good education at a low cost compared to other colleges and universities."
> *- Jensy Veras*

Melanie Fortin, a student at NECC majoring in radiology, said she's happy with the school and is impressed at all the different programs the school offers. Fortin said to succeed at NECC, a student needs to try hard and be engaged.

"You have be really motivated and engaged here," said Fortin. "You can't just go home and do nothing. You have to try."

> "You have be really motivated and engaged here."
> *- Melanie Fortin*

As with Veras, Fortin said her education's not ending here. "I'll probably continue to a four-year program," she said. "I'm thinking of going to the University of New Hampshire." Fortin plans on pursuing a career in radiology and NECC provides the first step into that path.

Some students have spent decades outside of the classroom and have just come back to pursue a different career path. Duane Sherman, a freshman majoring in liberal arts: writing, has spent the last thirty years working in radio broadcasting. After leaving radio behind, Sherman decided it was time to go back to school.

"This is the first time I'm back in the classroom in thirty years," said Sherman. "I'm happy and I'm proud that I'm doing well."

Taking that first step to go back to school after so many years can be a difficult decision.

"I was skeptical going in on some regards," said Sherman. But Sherman gave it a try and is now looking forward to his future. "I would like to be a writer of books," said Sherman. "I'd like to write a memoir. Write some fiction and non-fiction… My goal is to make a living off my own words."

What's Happening

Wednesday, Dec. 3
Seasonal Celebration & Children's Holiday Party
Haverhill Sport and Fitness Center
4 to 6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 8
Finals frenzy
Haverhill B bulding
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 9
Finals frenzy
Haverhill B bulding
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 10
Last day of classes before finals

Seasonal Celebration
Lawrence LC lobby
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11
Finals begin

Dec. 12 - 14
Annual production of "A Christmas Carol" in the Hawryleiw Theater

Editorial

The new Jim Crow

The purpose of a trial in the United States court system is to evaluate the evidence surrounding an event in which there is reason to believe something wrong has happened and to determine guilt or innocence in a case where there is a meaningful possibility of guilt.

That didn't happen in Ferguson with respect to Darren Wilson's killing of Michael Brown. What happened was a group of 12 people heard evidence and testimony in secret and decided that there was no probable cause for a trial — no reason to believe there was any possibility of wrongdoing surrounding Mike Brown's death. Possible charges ranged from unlawful discharge of a firearm to murder.

A trained, professional 6-foot-4 public servant killed an unarmed 18-year-old boy, and police left the body in the street for four and a half hours, and did not file a police report.

Something wrong happened.

Either Wilson was wrong alone, and he should be indicted and should already have been fired for not filing a police report after shooting a kid, or the department is complicit and should be systematically investigated or disbanded and replaced.

An unarmed 18-year-old kid was shot in the street by an officer of the law and nobody is getting in any trouble.

That is wrong. That is deeply, catastrophically wrong.

To be absolutely clear, this is about race.

Black people in the United States are killed by police at a much higher proportional rate than white people are. Estimates range from more than one per week to just under one a day.

Police virtually never face any kind of professional or legal consequences for these deaths. They include things like choking Eric Garner - a man with asthma - to death, fatally shooting people for holding BB guns - in Ohio, an open-carry state - on two separate occasions: John Crawford, 22, and Tamir Rice, 12; and Victor White "committing suicide" while unarmed and handcuffed in the back of a police cruiser.

And these are just some of the most vivid cases, and that's just since August, the month in which Mike Brown was killed. All of these people were black. None of the officers have been charged with a crime.

Civil rights activists have been referring to this deeply established trend in American policing as "The new Jim Crow." Black Americans no longer face the constant threat of angry mobs of white civilians, but they are not free of the constant threat of death for the crime of being Black in public.

Photo by Joe Spurr, shared under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike license.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, protesters in Boston joined the people of Ferguson in a gesture of solidarity, in response to the non-indictment of Darren Wilson.

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College

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The NECC Observer reserves the right to edit, condense and refuse all submissions.

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Have you taken Journalism I? Are you taking it now? Would you like to be on the Observer staff? Then submit your resume to observer@necc.mass.edu.

Publication Schedule

Issue	Publication Date	Ad/Copy Deadline
# 8	Dec. 10	Dec. 3

We welcome letters and articles from our readers. You can submit via email, and must include your name and phone number for verification. Write "Letter" or "Article to Editor" in the subject line so we notice it right away.

Send your letters to **observer@necc.mass.edu**

We try to publish all letters we recieve, but we reserve the right to edit or reject those we recieve.

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advertisers Inc., the Colombia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

Roaming Reporter

Do you feel prepared for finals?

"Never!"

Breanna McCarragher
Undeclared

"Yeah pretty much!"

Jenifer MacLean
Theater major

"I guess so."

Erin Mitchell
Psychology major

"Yeah, pretty much."

Nicole Diamond
Liberal arts major

"Sure."

Kelly Harriman
Radiology major

"Yes."

Paige Fournier
Middle and high school education

Opinion

Students looking to transfer

When considering four-year schools, take a look at these colleges

By Ashlee Rose Ferrante
Opinion Editor

When the time comes to branch off from NECC, one of the hardest decisions is where to transfer to.

With so many great schools around the country, trying to pick the right one can be tough. Some students like to study abroad, and some like to stay close to home.

For the students who want to stick to New England, here is a list of some of the colleges that students from NECC transfer to.

The listed colleges are a part of the UMass college program and take credits earned at NECC.

For more information on transferring, go to necc.mass.edu/academics/support-services/transfer/transfer-guide/

UMass Boston

A signature pick in the UMass family is UMass Boston. For city folks who want a fast paced atmosphere, UMass Boston is the place to be.

At the heart of the city and close to the Seacoast, there is so much to do. Only 45 minutes from Haverhill, students can be close to home but living the city life. If applicants like sports, they will enjoy what UMass Boston has to offer.

UMass Amherst

Another top pick for many students here at NECC is UMass Amherst.

Amherst is nicnamed "Zoomass" but has a great curriculum. UMass Amherst is located in downtown Amherst.

About two hours away from Haverhill, UMass Amherset is just far enough away for students who would like to be further away from home, but it is also close enough of a drive to go back home on the weekends.

UMass Lowell

Alot of students here at NECC tend to trasnfer to UMass Lowell because it is so close to home and with the Mass. trasfer program, it's easy to trasfer.

Located right in downtown Lowell, there are plenty of things to do on and off campus. From shopping to grabbing a bite to eat at the tons of awesome restarauts Lowell has to offer. Students sure won't be bored at UMass Lowell. Not to mention it's only 25 minutes from Haverhill. Haverhill students can stay close to home.

Tuition

	Boston	Amherst	Lowell
In-state	$7,104	$13,258	$12,447
(with room and board)	$21,816	$23,918	$23,725
Out-of-state	$15,316	$27,927	$27,400
(with room and board)	$36,000	$37,914	$38,678

Texting in class can distract both teachers and students

By Rachael Sarcione
Correspondent

Although many NECC professors request that students refrain from using their electronic devices during class, texting and social media continue to be a distraction during lectures and exams.

"I feel bad for the professors," said NECC student Melissa Dow, 37. "They spend all that time preparing lessons and then people are texting the whole time."

Laurie Yennaco, 48, a salon owner said, "The time for good ethics is before you enter the workplace."

"Texting in class is ignorant to the people that want to learn," said Bruce Augustonavich, a returning NECC graduate. "It's rude the person teaching."

It's difficult not to be distracted," said Gail Stuart, Head of Research Services at NECC's Bentley Library. "It's important to focus on one thing when you're trying to absorb information."

The Observer is your newspaper! We want to hear from you. Write in to observer@necc.mass.edu

Pursue a Degree at UMass Lowell
Take UMass Lowell Courses at NECC in Haverhill

Registration is now available for the UMass Lowell courses listed on the right that will be held at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill this Spring.

Count these courses towards a UMass Lowell Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, Criminal Justice or Business Administration – all backed by the academic integrity of a top ranked research University.

Spring Courses Start January 21st

Questions? Call 800-480-3190

COURSE NO.	COURSE NAME	DAY	TIME
MGT.310-HA1	Human Resource Management	Thurs	6:00-8:50pm
MKTG.411-HA1	Marketing Analytics	Mon	6:30-9:20pm
POMS.301-HA1	Operations Management	Tues	6:30-9:20pm
44.320-HA1	Hate Crimes	Thurs	6:30-9:20pm
44.342-HA1	Criminal Profiling	Wed	6:30-9:20pm
47.269-HA1	Research I	Mon	6:30-9:20pm
47.312-HA1	Learning and Behavior	Tues	6:30-9:20pm
47.361-HA1	Developmental Psychopathology	Wed	6:30-9:20pm

UMass Lowell is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action, Title IX, H/V, ADA 1990 University. This ad was produced at no cost to the Commonwealth.

http://continuinged.uml.edu/haverhill

News

Transgender awareness workshop

GSA teaches student and staff about being transgender

By Chad Gorham
News Editor

On Friday, Nov. 21 the NECC Gay Straight Alliance held a trans awareness workshop.

Three students spoke to educate students, staff and faculty about the issues they face every day, and the proper ways to talk about it so no one gets hurt.

At the beginning of the workshop, Kelly Schwing, the president of the GSA, asked everyone to ponder a thought. They were asked to think about how many trans students they interact with every day?

The panel started off by reading a slide giving a description on what it means to be transgender.

The slide said, "transgender people are individuals who have a gender identity that does not match their sex they were assigned at birth. Typically people who are transgender have a self-image that varies from the body or gender role they were born into and wish to take steps to change that. Some people opt to identify as transgender as opposed to transsexual. The two words are similar in meaning however, some people find the term transsexual very offensive so it is always better to ask them what they want to be called."

When they were finished giving that information, student presenter Emily Leighton said, "I feel like it's a good rule to keep in mind with anything. If you do not know what someone wants to go by, just ask them."

"People will be more offended if you guess rather than say, 'what do you want to be identified as?'" said student presenter Jake Curdo.

Leighton also made an important point about the dangers of outing a transgender student. She explained that many trans people are in the closet to family, coworkers, employers or strangers because of a real risk of mistreatment, harassment or abuse.

> "What transgender people are not are creeps, perverts, or abominations."
> *- Emily Leighton*

Colby Patrie, who is a genderqueer student, said, "Although they are out, if you were talking to your friends out at a bar and your friends ask about bottom surgery or what is it like being trans, the wrong person could hear that, and in this day and age, it could be very dangerous."

"You would never ask about certain medical procedures other people had. So don't ask what [a trans person] has," said Leighton.

The presenters also discussed misconceptions about trans people. There are a lot of misconceptions of what it means to be transgender, and the panel wanted to give the guests the correct information to combat stereotypes.

"What transgender people are not are creeps, perverts or abominations. We are not aliens or inhuman. We are just people, really," said Leighton. "It is not a fetish for us. We are just trying to be comfortable in our own skin."

One misconception or stereotype that transgender people have is they are perverts and are greedy. They want both sex organs to have sex with as many people as they can.

"We just want to be ourselves," said Patrie "We are not perverts. Not trying to have as many genitalia as we can so we can have sex with as many people as we can."

Curdo said that he hears, "you're just a confused gay man or a confused lesbian," which is not true. This is harmful language that perpetuates trans erasure, or the idea that trans people do not actually exist.

The panel also wanted the guests to know the differences between cross dressers and drag queens and kings, as opposed to transgender people.

"Cross dressers are people who like to dress in the opposite genders clothes," said Patrie. "Drag queens and drag kings are usually performers. ... for most it is not their entire life."

The panel did say that some transgender people to choose to perform in drag shows.

Leighton read some statistics and said that between 2 and 5 percent of the population is transgender. The trans population is difficult to quantify because not everyone is comfortable with coming out or is safe to come out, so not everyone is counted.

The slides also stated that 20 percent of all murders in the United States between 1985 and 1998 were murders of transgender people and that one out of 12 trans women are murdered.

Fifty percent of trans people have been victims of domestic violence and 41 percent have attempted suicide.

Security Log

Haverhill Campus

Nov. 18

A student slipped in the ladies room of the Spurk Building first floor.

Nov. 20

A student lost their wallet while in Jitters.

Nov. 26

A car slid into another car in The Tech Center parking lot due to the snow.

Lawrence Campus

Nov. 17

A minor fender bender occured in the common street parking lot.

Nov. 22

Student had ambulance called because they were not feeling well.

Where to find security:

Haverhill Campus
100 Elliott St.,
room C-112(b)
978.556.3689

Riverwalk Campus
360 Merrimack St.
Bldg. 9, Entry K, Floor 3
978.659.1200

Lawrence Campus
45 Franklin St. main lobby
978.738.7499

Lawrence Ext. Campus
78 Amesbury St.
main lobby
978.738.7699

#NECC/Life photo contest continues

Photo contest is looking to engage students on campus.

By Chad Gorham
News Editor

Student Enrollment is holding a photo contest over the fall 2014 and spring 2015 semesters for students. Students can enter by submitting their photos on social media through the hash tag #NECC/Life.

Nathan Gilbert is one of the contest organizers and works in the marketing and communications department. One of his roles is managing the various social media accounts for NECC.

Gilbert said, "We started the photo contest initially as a means to crowd-source good student photos for use on the NECC website and in NECC promotional material. However, during the planning process, the contest goal changed into increasing engagement with our student community through social media."

Enrollement Services started the contest to encourage students to engage on campus and to capture their involvement using social media outlets. Tia Roy, an enrollment services intern said, "they wanted to create some friendly competition between students each month buy answering a question or a prompt through the form of a picture."

The three major outlets the school uses for the contest are Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Students constantly use those three social media outlets so the contest organizers figured it would make it easy for them to post their pictures.

Each month a prompt is sent out so the students know what to take a picture of. In September it was "new beginning" and in October it was "a new friend you have met." Yvette Martinez, Human Services major, won the October contest. Martinez won a blue power bank charger, which allows students to charge their phones basically anywhere.

> "I thought it would be super fun to do and a fun way to get involved at school."
> *- Yvette Martinez*

Martinez said, "I thought it would be super fun to do and a fun way to get involved at school."

Martinez's photo was a collage of different friends she has met on campus so far. When asked how she chose the photo to send in she said, "the truth is I just didn't want to take one single picture because I had made so many friends so I just included them all."

The three criteria the photos are judged on are: how well they incorporate that month's theme, how creative or fun the entry is, and how well they incorporate a sense of community at NECC. The judging panel is made up of select faculty and students who vote for their top three choices at the end of each month. When a student wins they are asked to join the judging panel for the next month.

Martinez is now in the running in May for the grand prize, which has not yet been announced. But Gilbert says, "the grand prize has not yet been selected but you can be reassured that is most definitely worth it to participate in the contest to potentially win this item."

The contest runs through April with a new prompt each month. December's prompt is "Favorite Location, what is your favorite spot on campus?"

For January the prompt will be, "Who or what motivates you?" February's prompt will be, "Snow Day!" March's prompt will be "How did you spend your spring break?" Aprils's prompt will be "NECC Pride, What is your biggest accomplishment at NECC."

April is the last month of the contest before the grand prize drawing in May.

News

Holiday snowstorm creates problems

First major snow fall of the season causes issues residents and motorists should be aware of

By Christina Hillner
Staff Writer

New England had its first snowstorm of the season this past Thanksgiving, causing travel issues and leaving some without power.

The snow Wednesday evening tapered off into the early morning hours on Thursday.

Then on the shopping holiday Black Friday, shoppers were faced with slippery roads, an additional 1-3 inches, and still no power.

Some residents in New Hampshire were just getting their power fully restored Monday.

After any sort of winter storm, drivers should clean off the roof of the car.

If it is not properly removed, the buildup of snow or ice can become a serious hazard to other drivers or result in a ticket.

It may not be an issue this time due to Monday's warm temperatures in the lower 60s.

General studies major Maddi Wilson was one of the many New Hampshire residents who lost power over the holiday weekend.

"Wednesday evening we lost power, but thankfully we had a generator to back us up," said Wilson.

> "Wednesday night was a challenge, because everywhere we went, there was a tree or power line down.
> - *Maddi Wilson*

The snowstorm brought heavy wet snow resulting in fallen trees and power lines, causing road closures and power outages on Thanksgiving throughout many parts of New Hampshire.

"Driving with my mom Wednesday night was a challenge, because everywhere we went, there was a tree or power line down, so it took us a while to get home," said Wilson.

Many like Wilson took to local hotels, or stayed with relatives until they received notice of the power being restored.

"I had to work Thanksgiving for Black Friday in the evening, so I went to my cousin's house to get ready there, and we spent Thanksgiving with them as well. Luckily, my power was restored Saturday morning," said Wilson.

NECC General Studies student Liv Lucey experienced what happens to many drivers after a storm.

"On the way up to Bretton Woods with my dad, a sheet of heavy snow flew off this tractor trailer and smashed onto my windshield," said Lucey.

She continued to describe the windshield having a slight crack horizontally on the bottom on the passenger side.

The event caused them to swerve, and limited their visibility for a few moments.

"The guy didn't even bother to stop. He probably didn't even realize what happened, as I'm swerving trying to see past the snow," said Lucey.

It is best to create distance when driving behind a trailer, especially after a storm like New England just had.

Heavy wet snow, and freezing temperatures will create ice sheets on top of big trucks, and as they drive, the snow turned ice can slide right off.

Political Science major Yolanda Gonzalez stated her opinion on the issue.

"I leave the snow on the roof of my car. I can't reach it, it's not my fault."

There is no official state law in Massachusetts specifically about the removal of snow on the top of cars.

The state police have ruled this as a violation.

Last year, there were signs along the highways to warn drivers to remove snow or ice. If drivers failed to do so, and were caught they received a ticket for $200.

As the snow season continues, the same warning will pop-up to remind drivers.

"I do the best to clean off my car. Though getting a ticket for not cleaning it off? I'd put snow on top of their car," said Criminal Justice major Eliezer Aras.

"I think it is a great idea for the State Police to act on this and start ticketing people. Look what happened to me. I wouldn't want that for anyone else," said Lucey.

Many people ignore the issue of having snow on top of their vehicles and neglect to think about how it's a common cause of wintertime accidents.

> I get very mad if they don't clean off their cars, they're driving and it hits mine? I hate that.
> - *Eliezer Aras*

"I clean off my car most of the time. If it's frozen on there, or if it is just a dusting, then no. If it is an excessive amount, I will always clean it off," says Business Management student Steve Pol-Diaz.

"I get very mad if they don't clean off their cars, they're driving and it hits mine? I hate that," says Aras.

The warm temperatures following the storm, have melted most of the snow for now.

It's the beginning of December, with at least four months of snow to come.

Motorists will be getting plenty of practice removing snow. It should be a common habit of any New England resident.

Despite the cold, and the time and effort it takes, it's an essential safety practice in New England winters.

On the NECC website, students and staff can sign up for NECC's Emergency Notification System, NECC Alert.

Students and staff will receive important college-closing text messages on their cell phone.

NECC-Alert will be used to distribute information regarding school closings due to weather and other emergency events.

To sign up for NECC-Alert, login to Self Service, click on the Personal Information Services tab, and sign up for NECC Alert.

Standard messaging rates may apply.

Photo by Christina Hillner
Wednesday evening a car parked got covered with a layer of ice and snow.

Photo by Christina Hillner
A warning posted on I-93 South last year to drivers to clear the snow from the roof of their vehicles.

Photo by Christina Hillner
Teachers walking through the quad in Haverhill with minimal snow now after recieving 6-8 inches

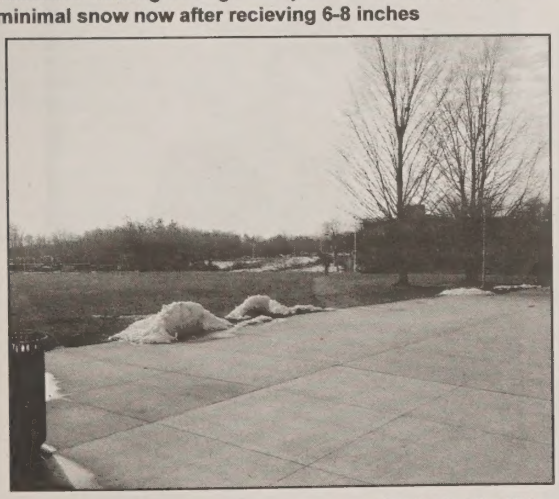


Photo by Christina Hillner
Most of the recent snow disappeared Monday due to warmer temperatures.

Arts & Entertainment

Peace Poetry contest is under way

Students compete to design the poster and the book cover

By Kim Whiting
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Students taking professor Lance Hidy's digital photography class were invited last month to enter their own original photography for consideration as the cover and advertising poster for the 2015 Peace Poetry Book.

Twelve students entered the contest and the entries were then displayed outside the computer lab on the third floor of the B building on the Haverhill campus.

Voting was open to students and staff and at the time of this article, the winner had not yet been announced.

The Peace Poetry Project was brought to the NECC community by professor Paul Saint-Amand, who previously ran a similar project in New York.

"After 9/11 happened, I felt like we had to do something besides hitting this war drum, so I started the Peace Poetry Project there with nine counties, including Fort Drum, so a lot of military families were included." Saint-Amand said of the projects' origin.

Aspiring poets throughout the entire Merrimack Valley area are asked to submit poems and small illustrations that convey their thoughts about peace.

K-12 teachers in local schools will be encouraged to have their students participate, although the contest is open to the public and submissions from all age groups are welcomed.

The submissions will be collected over the winter and some of them will be selected for printing in the Peace Poetry Book.

The 2014-15 school year is the seventh annual year for this project at NECC, which has been very well received by the community and is run entirely by Saint-Amand, although members of the NECC community will be asked to participate throughout the process.

> "I felt like we had to do something besides hitting this war drum, so I started the Peace Poetry Project"
> *- Professor Paul Saint-Amand*

"It's really the students that make this program," said Saint-Amand. "This is the first college-wide service learning program that we've ever done."

A committee comprised of NECC students and faculty will judge the submissions and 75 to 80 of them will be chosen as winners.

The winners are then invited to read their poem at a ceremony on the Haverhill campus. This year's ceremony and reading will be held on May 1 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in TC103.

This is the first year that students from a photography class have been asked to compete for the cover. In past years, NECC students in various art and design classes have created the cover and posters to advertise the event.

Volunteers will be needed to help make this another successful event, since collecting, organizing and judging the entries, all of the layout and design, and hosting the ceremony for the winners is all done right here on the Haverhill campus.

Posters will be up before the end of the semester and a letter will go out soon to educators and libraries throughout the area to advertise the event. An email will also be sent to NECC students.

The deadline for poem entries is March 1, 2015.

For more information, contact professor Saint-Amand at psaint-amand@necc.mass.edu.

Photo by Kim Whiting

Students and faculty were asked to vote for the image that will be used for the advertising poster and cover of the Peace Poetry Book.

Shows And Events

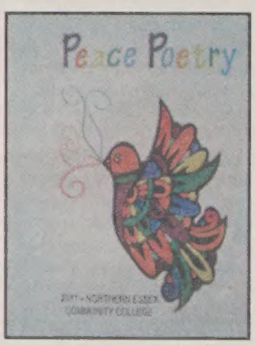
Dec. 4, 6 p.m.
Jazz Ensemble
TC103, Haverhill Campus
Free Admission

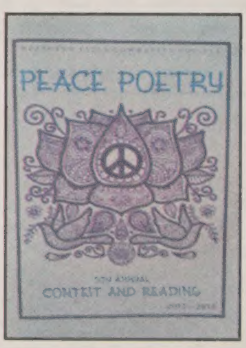
Dec. 5 and 6, 7:30 p.m.
Student Dance Concert
Sports and Fitness Center
Haverhill Campus
Free Admission

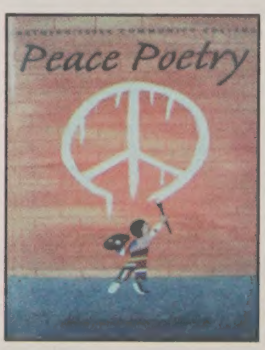
Dec. 7, 2 p.m.
Choir Concert
TC103, Haverhill Campus
Admission $5

Dec. 10
Last day of regular classes for Fall semester

Dec. 12 and 13, 7 p.m.
Dec. 13 and 14, 3 p.m.
Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" by the Top Notch Players
Chester W. Hawrylciw Theater, Haverhill Campus
General Admission $10
Students / Seniors $8
Children under 6, $6







Book cover winner
2011 - 2012
Emma Warner (left)

Book cover winner
2012 - 2013
Rachel Webster (middle)

Book cover winner
2013 - 2014
Mehtop Attas (right)

Pro guitarist visits NECC students

Marty Walsh shared his experiences with music students

By Kim Whiting
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Professional guitarist Marty Walsh visited the Haverhill campus on November 19 to talk about his successful career as a touring and studio guitarist.

About a dozen people attended the event, which was held in the music room in the Hartleb Technology center. The event was free and open to the public.

Professor of music, Mike Lecuyer met Walsh several years ago and invited him to share his knowledge.

Music students in a variety of disciplines attended the event, as well as a few members of the local community who couldn't pass up the opportunity to meet this guitar legend.

Walsh spoke for about an hour about his experiences and engaged the audience with questions about their own personal goals and real life advice tailored to their individual needs.

Walsh is now an assistant professor of music at Berklee School of Music in Boston.

Walsh, and his family, live in the local area and are still involved in the music schene.

One of his sons teaches piano at a local music school and Walsh has recently produced a new album in his home studio called "The Total Plan."

The CD can be purchased through CDBaby.com

The entire event can be viewed on the local cable channel. Check your local listings for times.

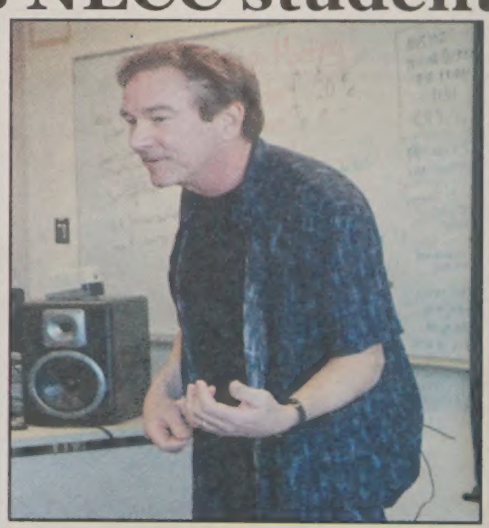


Photo by Kim Whiting

Marty Walsh spoke to a very attentive crowd about his experiences as a professional guitarist.

News

Haverhill opens new Valley Works center

Valley Works in Haverhill has moved to where bookstore was once located

NECC Newsroom
Correspondent

What was for years NECC's bookstore is now the home of the ValleyWorks Career Center's Haverhill Office.

The college and the career center hosted a grand opening on Tuesday, Nov. 18 to show off the new space, which was renovated extensively by the college to fit the needs of the career center.

NECC President Lane Glenn commenced the grand opening with a story illustrating why the partnership between the college and the career center make perfect sense.

On his way to the Hartleb Technology Center for the opening program, Glenn said he stopped by the career center and happened to meet a job-seeking client named "Tiffany." When he introduced himself, "Tiffany" shared how excited she is about recent assessment tests that show she has an aptitude for math.

"Tiffany" said she is now considering a career in accounting and planning to enroll in Northern Essex's accounting program.

"Education is an option for many job seekers, and having the center located on our campus makes it easier for them to explore what NECC has to offer," he said. "I'm very glad you are here as neighbors and partners."

When ValleyWorks announced in 2013 they would be closing the Haverhill location, which was located on Merrimack Street, due to budget cuts, Haverhill Mayor Jim Fiorentini pulled together a group including representatives from the college, the Workforce Investment Board, and ValleyWorks. "I knew we had to do something," he said.

That's when the partnership was born. The college was planning to move its bookstore, and would have space available on the first floor of the Behrakis One Stop Student Center but that space wouldn't be available until the spring.

In the short term, ValleyWorks offered limited services from space in the Hartleb Technology Center. The newly renovated space was opened for clients in June.

Rafael Abislaiman, executive director of the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board, said that co-locating community colleges with career center is a national model that works.

"I can't imagine anything a better way to help people when they lose their job than to help them get the skills they need to apply for a new and even better one."

NECC President Lane Glenn poses with staff from the ValleyWorks Career Center which is now located on NECC's Haverhill Campus.

The ValleyWorks Career Center is a one-stop career center, providing a wide range of services to job seekers and businesses in the Merrimack Valley.

ValleyWorks also has a Lawrence site, located at 439 South Union St.

In addition to Glenn, Abislaiman, and Fiorentini, speakers at the event included Jennifer James, undersecretary of workforce development, MA Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development; Alice Sweeney, director for Department of Career Services, and Arthur Chilingirian, executive director of ValleyWorks Career Center.

As part of the opening, the resource room in the new career center was dedicated to the memory of Ron DiNicola, the former manager of the Haverhill ValleyWorks, who died soon after retiring 2012.

The plaque which was unveiled at the ceremony and will be placed in the resource room reads "inspiring leader, mentor, and friend to all."

To learn more about the ValleyWorks Career Center, visit the website

valleyworks.cc/

Lawrence veteran Justin Merced finds full college experience at NECC

Veteran Justin Merced is a strong member of NECC

NECC Newsroom
Correspondent

When Justin Merced of Lawrence enrolled at NECC, he was interested in the academics, of course, but he also was looking for a full college experience.

He wanted extra-curricular activities that would help him develop his leadership skills, meet other students, and motivate him to stay physically active.

"I searched the Northern Essex website and found out what I could join," he says. "One of the things that I appreciate most about Northern Essex is the amount of activities offered to students."

Since arriving at NECC a year and a half ago, Justin served as vice president of the student senate; was the student representative on the All College Assembly, an advisory board to the president; and ran weekly with the President's Running Club.

An Army veteran who has served in Afghanistan and Iraq, Justin is also a leader in the college's Veterans' Club.

Last fall, thanks in large part to his hard work, the college had a very successful Veterans' Appreciation Day Luncheon.

> "One of the things that I appreciate most about Northern Essex is the amount of activities offered to students."
>
> *- Justin Merced*

Academically, Justin has excelled at NECC, too, earning a near-perfect 3.95 GPA in his major, which is liberal arts with concentrations in biology and creative writing.

He's a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the community college honor society, and participates in the Honors Experience, a rigorous program for motivated students that's affiliated with the UMass Commonwealth Honors Program.

Earning excellent grades is important if Justin is going to achieve his goals. After serving as a medic in the military, he decided medicine was the perfect fit for him career-wise. He plans to earn a four-year degree and eventually enroll in medical school.

Meet Alison Brody

NECC was a stepping stone for Brody on the way to a Bachelor's Degree

By NECC Newsroom
Correspondent

After starting at NECC and then attending another local college, Allison Brody returned and hit her stride in the Radiologic Technology Program.

"Northern Essex was close to home, affordable, and a good opportunity to get into health care," said the Central Catholic High School grad.

"Having the clinical opportunities integrated into the program was great, too," she said.

As part of the rad tech program, Allison was able to complete clinical placements at Lowell General Hospital and Lawrence General Hospital. "The two different hospitals gave me two different perspectives, and this made me more well-rounded,"she said.

While Allison was a student at NECC, she also worked for Zorvino Vineyards, a winery and function facility, as well as for a local accounting firm.

Her plan was to graduate from the rad tech program and go to work in the field. Then she found out about NECC's transfer agreement with Regis College.

"I learned that by transferring to Regis I could get my bachelor's degree in one year, which was great," she said.

Allison graduated from NECC in 2013 and transferred to Regis College.

She is doing her clinical and most of her course work at Mass General Hospital, and will graduate with her bachelor's degree in December 2014.

"I love having my clinical at Mass General, and I love that with this program I am able to help people. The bachelor's degree will increase my knowledge of the field and improve my marketability," she said.

"Northern Essex was a great place to start; I was well-prepared to pass the boards and transfer to Regis," she said.

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Features

Lazarus House canned food drive

Community Outreach Group gives back this Thanksgiving

By Rebecca Westerman
Features Editor

The annual canned food drive for Lazarus House took place this semester, and is still open for donation. Students may have noticed over the last few weeks boxes labeled for Lazarus House in a few locations around campus.

This year's drive was certainly a success. The Community Outreach Group, a student organization run by Meredith Gunning, a philosophy professor at NECC, held the canned food drive to help those less fortunate around Thanksgiving.

Photo by Rebecca Westerman

Donation box for canned food drive in C Building.

The Community Outreach Group, or COG, participates in a multitude of community service oriented goals. COG has been doing this food drive for Lazarus House for the last eight years.

This year, due to unforeseen weather circumstances, the drive is going past Thanksgiving.

"I find people are pretty generous, leading up to Thanksgiving," Gunning said. "Even at a community college where people may not have a lot I find that people drop off food.

"It's inspiring, and Lazarus's House is hurting because of the economy and Lawrence in particular was hard hit after 2008, A lot of repossessed homes and such so it is good to see people pulling together."

COG does all sorts of things to give back to the community, and simply because it is an act of good.

They have in past semesters done beach cleanups at Salisbury Beach, walks for charity, and gone to the Boys and Girls Club to volunteer.

Some members do tutoring with the kids, and through other organizations.

One semester the group decided to adopt a child through a program where you pay each month to provide for the child.

Another thing COG does is bake sales and they vote on what organization they want the money to go to.

"Generally (students are) not doing this because they're forced, they're doing this because they want to provide solidarity," Gunning said. "What I really like about this, is it's not mandated by me. They vote on what they want to do so it shifts every single semester."

Aaron Martinez, liberal arts physical studies major who is president of COG, has only been a part of the group for one semester and is pleased with this semester's success.

"There were points in time where the boxes were actually filled up and we would have to empty them and bring the food to Meredith's office," said Martinez. "We actually got donations from the Lawrence campus too."

For Martinez, being a part of the group has proved to be a rewarding and positive experience. "When I first did it, I'll be honest, I was a little hesitant I didn't want something too demanding. I felt like I wanted to meet people but at the same time this is something that I personally believe in.

"I was brought up to help others, especially if their situations isn't as good as mine. As I kept going to the meetings and eventually became the president it was just something that I personally believe in.

"Now, I tell myself that if I believe in it I might as well be active and strive towards what I want to achieve. I guess COG in itself is my belief," Martinez said.

Another student involved with COG for the past three semesters is Paul Kelly, a philosophy/psychology major.

"I guess it sort of gives you a semblance of meaning in a very time constrained environment that most of us live in.

"Most of the things people do are rote and mechanical throughout their day so it's sort of nice to be able to break away from that," Kelly said.

"You're with friends, you're interacting face-to-face which is sometimes easier to do than fight for some foreign cause."

Kelly does bring up a valid point that in some ways charities that are not exactly local can leave some ambiguity over where the money or help is really going.

"At least for me there is a lot of uncertainty with other types of activism. It's very hard sometimes to figure out if a cause is even good or not, it's nice when it is direct. It feels more personal," said Kelly.

Martinez stresses how rewarding it is to see the change the group makes on a personal level for the people they help.

"It's more impactful, because you can actually physically see the changes.

"I know in years past we have actually gone to the Lazarus House and helped served food and volunteer, they actually physically see the impact on the people's emotions and feelings.

"I'm not saying don't donate money, what I mean is it has more value, it's more personal and that in itself can be more cherishable," said Martinez.

"I like the bake sales, but I think seeing food that people need being accumulated I think it's good to know that food sitting in the corner of Meredith's office is going help feed someone for a couple days and that it's going to help the Lazarus House," she said. "At least with the food we actually know someone is being fed. I guess knowing how something is going to be used is nice to know."

Kelly's favorite part of being in the group is going out and being actively making a difference as opposed to the planning processes behind the actions.

"In the past, when we've actually gone out to the various places and helped the Lazarus House and waited on people there and stuff like that would probably be my favorite part.

"I'm not as amused by bake sales as Aaron is. I also enjoyed last semester we put on a talent show because it got other people interested and active in a way that's not so dry.

Photo by Community Outreach Group

Students in Community Outreach Group picking up debris last semester at Salisbury Beach

"When we actually go out and do things as opposed to sitting in the classroom is rewarding," said Kelly.

The goal behind COG is solely to do good and give back to the community as well as be a community in itself. "I think COG in the end is people," said Martinez, "all the members who go to the meetings and help out they all personally believe they want to help others, they strive for perfection in society.

"I think it is meaningful to everyone, it's not something we expect to be rewarded academically for. I think COG is genuine."

The canned food drive is still accepting donations through Dec. 3, any students or staff who wish to donate can find boxes in the Spurk building lobby, the One-Stop Center, or leave donations with members of the Community Outreach Group or with Meredith Gunning. Students and staff interested in joining the group are welcome to, it is open to all.

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January 8, 2015

News

Mass. legalization of medical marijuana

The substance is legal for medical purposes, but there are no dispensaries

By Duane Sherman
Correspondent

On Nov. 6, 2012, the voters of Massachusetts approved the legal use of medicinal marijuana, yet there still is not one dispensary open. Why?

Question 3 passed with 63 percent approval. On Jan. 1, 2013, the law took effect, eliminating criminal and civil penalties for the possession and use of up to a 60-day supply of marijuana, provided that the patient possesses a state issued registration card. The card is obtained through a recommendation from a doctor. A total of 35 state licensed dispensaries are scheduled to open in the Commonwealth after the regulations have been set.

Therein lies the problem: bureaucracy. The regulatory meetings have been postponed and rescheduled. The original target date was May 1, 2013.

Many communities have tried to ban the dispensaries. These oppositions took time to sort out, with Attorney General Martha Coakley ruling in favor of the dispensaries, allowing cities and towns to regulate them. An outright ban would be in direct conflict with the new law.

Although some states are now allowing both medicinal and recreational use of the plant freely, it still is an illegal substance in the eyes of the federal government.

This discourages many banks and other financial institutions from getting involved with a company that produces marijuana or sells it from a dispensary.

Even the local medical community is split. You can get a registration card on Newbury Street in Boston, but finding one on the North Shore is tough.

"North Shore Physicians' Group has decided as a whole not get involved with medical marijuana. We will not provide any paperwork," said Dr. John Trautman of Beverly, a member of the group.

So not everybody is on the bandwagon. The Massachusetts Medical Society still maintains that there is no proof that the use of marijuana is safe and effective.

Perhaps the bandwagon should make another pass through. According to Time.com, a recent study from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus seeks to show that a strain of marijuana called 'Charlotte's Web' is an effective treatment for Dravet Syndrome, a type of epilepsy.

The study follows an apparently successful use of this strain to treat Dravet Syndrome.

Some think that having no dispensaries open in Mass., is not good.

"I've done a lot of reading about it and it all keeps coming down to bureaucracy. They make it seem like policy is being held up," says NECC sophomore Tim Lavin, 21, of Methuen.

Lavin is educated in the potential healing powers of CBD, and well versed on the subject of the healing properties of the plant. "I believe in the science of it," said Lavin. "There is no reason why an 80-year-old cancer patient can't get what they need."

Lavin says, "In the marijuana trade, it all comes down to economics. You can't understand it if you don't understand economics."

The decriminalization in Mass., back in 2008, coupled with the passage of medicinal use, has left it in a sort of gray area, as far as citations. The law says that the user can have up to one ounce and only receive a ticket for $100.

Shortly after the election and passage of the law, it seemed like every convenience store and gas station suddenly had a supply of bongs, hookahs and pipes for sale. How could they be prepared, but still no dispensary anywhere?

According to Marijuana Policy Project's website, "Although the Department of Public Health failed to meet its deadlines for implementing the law, patients have been able to apply for ID cards since October 2014. The registration is mandatory. Unregistered patients will not have any protection from arrest beginning on Feb. 1, 2015."

Student Opinions: Ferguson

NECC students share their views on events in Ferguson

By Emily Marsden
Correspondent

On Aug. 9, Officer Wilson shot and killed unarmed Michael Brown after a confrontation in a Ferguson street. The shooting triggered protests that went on for weeks. While often peaceful, some protests would turn violent, and police would respond by firing smoke canisters and using tear gas and rubber bullets.

Over 1,000 miles away, NECC students are forming their own opinions over the Ferguson case and the protests happening because of it.

"I think its sad that Michael Brown is dead, but I agree with the verdict," said sophomore Barry Pietrantonio. "If Brown didn't try to fight Officer Wilson, and struggle with him inside the vehicle, I'd be all for the indictment of Officer Wilson. But due to the evidence brought forward, along with multiple testimonies in Officers Wilsons favor, I believe Wilson did the right thing. No one should attack an officer of the law and not expect to be shot."

"I think what's happening in Ferguson is just people reacting to the accumulation of events in the past couple of years or so," said sophomore Kevin Brito. "Its not just one thing. People are fed up and decided to take things into their own hands."

"Trayvon Martin and Eric Gardner, both unarmed black men killed and there were no consequences," Brito continues. "Now the same thing happened to Michael Brown, [an] unarmed black killed with no consequences."

Some students are not so eager to share their opinion because the subject is so controversial. "I don't have much to say besides that if the victim was white, none of this would have happened," said sophomore Olivia Eleftherious.

While many students see the Ferguson case as a racial feud, Pietrantonio has a different opinion. "I disagree with the fact that this shooting was a white versus black scenario," said Pietrantonio. "I don't think race mattered in Officer Brown's decision but I do think the black community is fed up with racism in the 21st century."

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Faculty Duet

By Jessica Freeman
Correspondent

On Monday, Nov. 24, at 5:30 p.m. NECC held a concert, "Romantic Violin and Piano" on the Haverhill campus in Building C, Lecture Hall A. The music was performed by George Kucera on violin and Alisa Bucchiere on piano.

Kucera, born in Prague, and a math teacher at NECC, says in regards to playing the violin, "[I] shouldn't be doing this stuff."

Kucera is passionate about music.

"The violin is my wife; I'm married to her," said Kucera.

Bucchiere, a music teacher at NECC, said this is the first time she and Kucera had played together for a concert. Bucchiere is also involved with the music for the school's upcoming production of "A Christmas Carol."

The music for the evening consisted of songs played on the violin and piano, composed during the romantic period, spanning from the late 1700s to the early 1900s.

Bucchiere, referred to the concert as a "musical journey through time."

The program was made up of 12 songs, including music from Tchaikovsky, Paganini and Chopin.

Before each piece, Kucera gave an anecdote about the history of the song or information about the musical elements found in the song.

One story shared was about the third piece played, titled "On the Wings of a Song" by Mendelssohn.

Bucchiere shared the story of how the song has been credited only to F. Mendelssohn, and that this may have referred to, the composer Felix Mendelssohn's sister Fanny.

During this time period of the 1880s Mendelssohn's sister couldn't have published music under her own name because she was a women, but that she was known to publish songs under this name.

Despite many European composers on the list, one American song "Banjo and Fiddle" by Kroll was included.

Bucchiere said with the song's upbeat tempo and fast pace, the only thing she could think of was "a bugs bunny cartoon," and that it was like a "cartoon chase" and "it's a lot of fun to play."

Many of the pieces played were not originally composed for the violin and piano, but were later translated to accommodate these instruments. One song, "Thasis" by Massenet, has been "translated for every instrument under the sun, except for the kazoo" according to Bucchiere. She said it sounds "most beautiful on the violin."

Another song, "Mazurek" by Dvorak, was composed specifically for the violin and piano, and the two instruments echoed each other throughout the piece.

After the show was over, Nancy Nickerson, a teacher who works in the math department with Kucera, presented both of the performers with bouquets of flowers.

Nickerson is involved in the school orchestra with Kucera. When asked about the show, Nickerson said "The program was extraordinary," and that "they're both such professionals."

Bucchiere said it was okay to have a small crowd and that it was better than a large crowd who didn't care and didn't really want to be there.

Kucera was glad to see some of his math students came to the show as well.

Looking to the future, Bucchiere says the next month is, "a month of concerts for her," but that she hopes to have another performance with Kucera in the spring.

Knights Bytes

By Mike Alongi
Sports Editor

Knights head out on a three game road swing starting tomorrow

The Knights will face Bunker Hill Community College tomorrow, Dec. 4 and Springfield Technical Community College on Saturday, Dec. 6. Both are important divisional games, and the Knights would certainly like to take at least one of those games. The final game of the trip will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 9 against Vermont Tech in Randolph, Vt.

NECC baseball season is drawing closer and closer

The Knights baseball team begins their season on March 22 against the University of Connecticut at Avery Point, a divisional matchup. NECC is hoping for more success on the diamond this year after finishing last year with a 21-14 record in the regular season and making it all the way to Tyler, Texas for the NJCAA World Series, where they finished third. The Knights are three-time defending NJCAA Region 21 champions and have competed in the World Series four times in the past eight years.

Today is the last day for free pool this semester at the Sport and Fitness Center

The Campus Game Room at the Sport and Fitness Center offers plenty of fun activities to students. In addition to the pool tables, students with a valid NECC ID have access to ping-pong tables, a dartboard, chess, checkers, board games and a snack bar. The pool tables come with a small fee, but free pool days are held monthly on the Haverhill campus. Today is the final day for free pool until the spring semester.

Open gym access available to students

The Sport and Fitness Center on the Haverhill campus holds open gym hours every week to interested students. With a valid school ID, students have access to the gymnasium for informal recreational use from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Monday through Friday throughout the semester. Students should be advised that the gymnasium is sometimes used for intramural activities between noon and 1 p.m. on the scheduled day. Lockers are available to those who want them, and students can sign up for one in the Main Office of the Sport and Fitness Center.

Sports

Fall semester grades for Knights men's basketball

Knights stand at 4-5 through the first month and are building confidence as they grow

By Mike Alongi
Sports Editor

Photo courtesy of the NECC Athletic Dept.

The Knights have gotten off to a 4-5 start so far this season with a young core of players. A fast-paced offense and smothering defense have both helped the Knights thus far.

The NECC Knights basketball team have just concluded their busiest month on the schedule and gotten through it fairly unscathed, considering the circumstances around the team entering the season. Although the Knights have struggled in some areas, they have managed some nice road wins and finished the nine game stretch with a record of 4-5, including a MCCAC (Massachusetts Community College Athletic Conference) record of 4-4.

In honor of the coming end of the semester, the Knights will be given a series of grades based on various elements of their season so far. In addition, the team will be given an overall grade and a player of the month will be named. This is a good point in time to assess the team, as the Knights have played eight conference games to this point, and they are approaching the midway point in the season. With that being said, the categories the Knights will be graded on will be offense, defense, conference play, rebounding and quality of wins, as well as the overall team grade.

Offense: C+

The Knights have done a decent job putting the ball in the net so far this season, averaging 71.4 points per game. However, this is only good enough to rank 29th in the conference, and it just hasn't been enough to get them over the edge. The Knights' shooting percentage is lower than expected for a primarily outside shooting team, sitting at just 38 percent and 34 percent from three-point range.

The free throw shooting has been terrible, however, with the Knights shooting just 55 percent from the charity stripe. This is something that just cannot continue if the Knights are to compete later on in the season.

Due to their lack of size inside, the Knights have been living and dying from the three, and it shows up in the stats. In the Knights' four wins, they are averaging 39 percent shooting from three, compared to just 31 percent from downtown in their five losses. This tells a lot about NECC and their one dimensional approach to offense. It is very difficult to get by through an entire season with so much of the offense coming from behind the arc. Shooters are bound to go into slumps, and if the threes aren't falling, the team won't win.

Defense: B-

The Knights graded out on defense as a B- because, on average, they score more than they give up. NECC's opponents are averaging 61.4 points per game, a full 10 points lower than the Knights are averaging on offense. This should translate into a pretty good record for the Knights, but it hasn't. There are a couple reasons for this, one of which is the shooting percentages they are allowing to other teams.

On average, Knights' opponents are shooting 44.3 percent from the field, including 38 percent from three point range. The numbers rank in the bottom half of the conference in both categories (26th and 40th, respectively). This just isn't getting the job done, especially with the Knights' inconsistency shooting the ball on offense.

The bright side of the Knights' defense is the way they are taking the ball away from opponents. NECC ranks 13th in the MCCAC in steals per game, averaging 10.4. This is a result of the ball-hawking pressure defense that the Knights employ. With all the hard traps and team speed, the Knights have been able to do a great job cutting off passing lanes and getting fast break opportunities.

Conference Play: B

The Knights have played eight MCCAC games so far this season, all of them in a row, and stand at 4-4 to this point. NECC has done a good job of being competitive for most of these games, but the inexperience of the team and the lack of size up front has led to opposing teams pulling away in the second half. It's hard to complain about the 4-4 record considering the toughness of the schedule and the fact that the Knights have pulled off some quality wins in the process.

When the Knights have lost this season, they've lost pretty big. In their last three home losses, the Knights have lost by an average of 15 points. The opposing teams are just able to control the boards against the undersized Knights, and NECC can't keep pace.

It's not all bad, however, as the Knights have notched some great wins against Holyoke and Massasoit Community College as well as the University of Connecticut at Avery Point. The only thing the Knights need to focus on is their shooting consistency. NECC is shooting about equal percentages in wins compared

Continued on page 11

NECC Men's Basketball 2014-2015
Recent Game Results

Score	Opponent
Loss, 84-68	Gateway Community College
Loss, 98-79	MassBay Community College
Win, 78-61	Holyoke Community College
Win, 70-67	Massasoit Community College
Loss, 77-63	Bristol Community College
Win, 61-54	University of Connecticut at Avery Point
Loss, 83-73	Community College of Rhode Island

NECC Men's Basketball 2014-2015
Scoring Leaders

Name	PPG / FG PCT
Parker Rogers	16.9 ppg / 38.7 FG percent
Matthew Jameson	15.0 ppg / 41.9 FG percent
Edwin Gonzalez	11.2 ppg / 38.0 FG percent

Rebounding Leaders

Name	RPG (Offense/Defense)
Elijah Mukiibi	11.4 rpg (4.1 off./ 7.3 def.)
Jonathan Paulino	9.0 rpg (3.8 off./ 5.2 def.)
Parker Rogers	7.8 rpg (3.2 off./4.6 def.)

Sports

Knights have plenty to build on

Shooting consistency and rebounding as a team will be keys to the Knights' success

Continued from page 10

to losses, but the three point percentages are vastly different. The Knights are shooting a full eight percentage points higher from three in their wins, which is a gap that needs to be narrowed if NECC wants to compete in these games.

Rebounding: B-

This grade is a little higher than some may think considering the Knights' lack of size down low, but it is actually that very fact that makes their rebounding stats so impressive. NECC is ranked 14th in the conference in defensive rebounds and 13th in offensive rebounds per game, putting them at 14th in total rebounding in the MCCAC. This is all done with their tallest player standing at just 6'6" and the majority of the team standing at 6' and under, showing that coach Darren Stratton's philosophy of team rebounding is hitting home with the players.

Freshman Elijah Mukiibi, the tallest player on the Knights, is using his size to his advantage, averaging 11.4 rebounds per game, including 4.1 on the offensive end. The offensive rebounds are particularly important because they lead to second chance opportunities for the Knights. Jonathan Paulino, another freshman, is doing his part as well, averaging nine rebounds per game. Coach Stratton loves the way Paulino plays, saying, "he may only be 6'2", but he's one of the toughest guys out there."

Sophomore guard Parker Rogers, one of the few veterans on the team, leads all guards on the Knights with 7.8 rebounds per game, and is having a great all-around start to the season.

Photo courtesy of the NECC Athletic Dept.

One of the Knights' leaders this season is sophomore guard Parker Rogers (20). To this point, Rogers leads the Knights in points per game and is third on the team in rebounds.

Quality of Wins: C+

The Knights have won their four games this year by an average of nine points, which seems solid until the numbers are examined. Aside from a 17 point win over Holyoke Community College, the Knights have only won by an average of five points, which may be too close for comfort.

The Knights' shooting is going to go a long way to determine whether or not they win games, as their work on the defensive end has been admirable to this point in the season. This is a team that lives and dies shooting the ball from the outside, and they're going to have to make more than 38 percent from the field and 34 percent from three.

The win over the University of Connecticut at Avery Point is probably the win of the season so far, as the Knights were down eight points at the half and rallied to outscore UCAP 39-24 to come away with a great win. NECC did a solid job on the boards, hauling in 48 rebounds compared to just 30 from UCAP. The Knights worked well on the offensive end as well, with four players scoring in double figures.

Overall Grade: B-

It's hard to be too critical of the Knights' 4-5 start to the season. Coming in with a young, undersized lineup, Stratton was forced to start slow and see how the team progressed. Rebounding was going to be hard work for the smaller team, and pushing the pace on the offensive end was bound to create a lot of turnovers for the inexperienced players.

These facts have proven to be true so far, but the Knights are showing real signs of improvement. The Knights have outrebounded a few teams this season, and the slash-and-kick style of offense is producing turnovers, but also a lot of open shots. It's all a matter of hitting the shots for NECC, and if they can do that they can compete with anyone.

With the toughest month of the season out of the way, the Knights have only four more games before the winter break. Three of those games are tough tests on the road, but if the Knights can head into the break at .500 or better, they'll be poised for a great run in the spring.

Player of the Month: Parker Rogers

Rogers has made an all-around impact on the Knights so far this season. The sophomore guard is averaging 16.9 points per game on 38 percent shooting from the field. His total number of points scored (152) ranks 4th in the MCCAC. He's also ranked 5th in the conference in steals (20) and 12th in total rebounds (70). He has only been called for 13 personal fouls on the season so far, and his 23 assists on offense is good enough for 17th in the conference.

The combined statistics on offense, defense and rebounding make Rogers a perfect candidate for player of the month honors. Other considerations were freshman Matthew Jameson (15 PPG, 41 percent shooting), sophomore Edwin Gonzalez (11.2 PPG, 3.1 APG) and freshman Elijah Mukiibi (8.4 PPG, 11.4 RPG).

This paper is your voice, too!
We want to see what you have to say.

You can reach us at:

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NECC Men's Basketball 2014-2015
Parker Rogers season statistics

November 2014

Category	Statistics	MCCAC Rank
Points per game (PPG)	16.9 PPG	33rd
Field goal percentage (FG%)	38.7 FG %	147th
3 point percentage (3PT%)	34.0 3PT %	80th
Free throw percentage (FT%)	64.4 FT %	111th
Rebounds per game (RPG)	7.8 RPG	53rd
Assists (Ast.)	23 Assists	17th
Steals (Stl.)	20 Steals	5th

Northern Essex Community College

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Last look: Art Space

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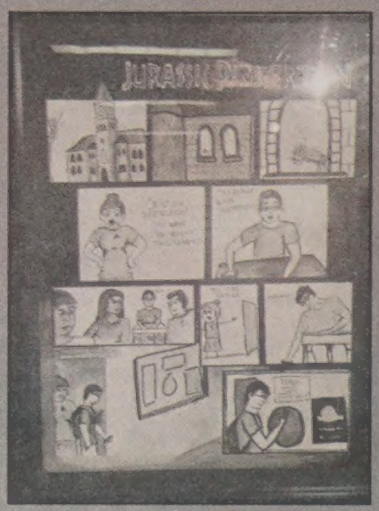
A Mind of Its Own

By Benjamin Pintor Jr.
J-Block



By Nicole Mercado-Vega
Jurassic Pinkerton

By Dylan McDougall
Saving Rapture Junction

By Tyler Park
The Merrimack Monster

By Yosmarlin Infante
High School Was a Joke

By Clifford Pierre-Louis
NECCO 20XX

By Kevin Poole
The Intoxication